

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SAYING FAREWELL TO HOUSE
PARLIAMENTARIAN MUFTIAH
MCCARTIN

SPEECH OF

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor House Associate Parliamentarian Muftiah McCartin. Today marks the final day in the long and distinguished career of Muftiah, who has served this House with great distinction for nearly 30 years in the Office of the Parliamentarian.

During her nearly three decades of service, Muftiah served under six Speakers and three different Parliamentarians of the House. Charlie Johnson, the former Parliamentarian, would often describe Muftiah as a "Renaissance woman." She came to work for the Parliamentarian's Office as a clerk in 1976 and continued her education at night. On top of her day job and night school, Muftiah was a dedicated mother. She accomplished all her tasks with great determination, strength, and grace. After completing her juris doctorate, Muftiah was the first woman appointed an Assistant Parliamentarian in January of 1991 by Speaker Tom Foley.

Aside from her dedication to the office's daily procedural mission, she has provided special expertise to the House in the areas of budget process and rule making. Muftiah has also assisted the office as the long-time editor of the House Rules and Manual, published every Congress, as well as two editions of House Practice.

Over the years I have served in this House as both a Member and now Speaker, I have come to have a greater appreciation for the role of the office of the Parliamentarian and those giving me advice. On behalf of all those who have looked to you for help while presiding in the Speaker's chair, thank you for being such a trusted and educated colleague.

I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors and hope that with the long hours of this job behind you, you will be afforded more time to spend with your husband and four children.

CONGRATULATING DAVID WHITE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. David White for receiving the Gold Medal of Achievement in Royal Rangers.

Royal Rangers is an achievement program of the Assemblies of God which utilizes an outdoor theme to teach positive character, responsibility, leadership, citizenship and service to God, men and country. The Gold Medal of

Achievement is the highest achievement that can be earned in the Royal Ranger Program.

Mr. White is a freshman in Roanoke, Texas. His achievement represents many years of diligent work completing merits, camping and nature skills, leadership training camps, memorization, essays and service projects. A special service honoring Mr. White's accomplishment is planned for November 27, 2005 at Grace Community Assembly of God in Flower Mound, Texas.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. David White on receiving the Gold Medal of Achievement. His hard work and dedication to excellence warrants the highest achievement given by the Royal Rangers Program.

HONORING MARGARET ATENCIO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a leader in Colorado's Hispanic community, Ms. Margaret Atencio. Margaret's tireless efforts in the competitive arena of Colorado politics has spanned many years. She is a beloved person in the Colorado Democratic Party, and well respected by all, including many Republican friends, for her dedication to Hispanic youth and increasing the participation and clout of the Latino vote. Her contributions are an inspiration to anyone interested in public service.

Margaret Atencio has had a distinguished career which began with her work at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission. Governor Roy Romer appointed her to the Second Judicial Performance Committee Commission. She serves as the chair of the Downtown Democratic Forum, the Democratic Outreach Commission, and was a founder of the Democratic Latino Initiative.

Margaret has shown boundless energy and commitment to political causes in Colorado. She is currently the vice chair of the 1st Congressional District, the captain and precinct committeeperson of House District 1B, the 2nd Vice Chair of the Colorado Democratic Party, and the president of the Denver Jane Jeffersons. She has been a delegate to many National Democratic Party Conventions and State Party Conventions.

As influential as she has been in politics, it is not her partisan affiliation that strikes me as most worthy of recognition, but rather her commitment to projects that strengthen her community. She is a member of a grassroots group in Denver, "Finding Common Ground" and she serves on the Board of Brothers Redevelopment, Incorporated, which is a non-profit group that sponsors programs to help low-income, elderly and disabled persons find affordable housing and support services.

Margaret does not hold public office, nor has she been a candidate for office, but she

is, nevertheless, the kind of person who makes a difference. She is one of those persons who has helped others get elected, and to make sure that her candidates keep their promises.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Margaret Atencio for her continuing commitment to honest politics in Colorado. In a time when voter turnout is sometimes disappointingly low and faith in government has fallen, it is heartening to know that there are people like Margaret who find time to volunteer, engage others and who are devoted to bettering the political process, increasing political participation and strengthening our communities in the process. I'm proud to know Margaret Atencio, to count her as a friend and advocate of people whose voices are not always heard, but need to be heard.

MOUNT ST. HELENS NATIONAL
VOLCANIC MONUMENT

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, on May 18, 1980, a catastrophic volcanic eruption forever changed the face of Mt. St. Helens in Washington. As a result of the eruption, fifty-seven people were killed, hundreds of square miles of forest were shattered, and the once graceful peak of the mountain was reduced to a smoldering crater.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan established the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument within the U.S. Forest Service. The Monument is unique in that it is the only unit of its kind in the U.S. Forest Service. The Monument's mission to provide research, recreation, and education opportunities related to Mt. St. Helens and the 1980 eruption does not fit with that of the Forest Service, which is charged with management of our Nation's forests.

The attached article, which appeared in The Columbian, a Vancouver, Washington-based newspaper, puts forth the idea that the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument should be removed from the Forest Service, and made a unit of the National Park Service, whose primary mission is research, recreation, and education.

When I visited the Monument earlier this year, the same idea occurred to me. Perhaps it is time we look into it.

[From the Columbian, Nov. 7, 2005]

PARK STATUS MAY EASE ST. HELENS' BLUES

(By Erik Robinson)

Dave Uberuaga has been watching with interest as his neighbor to the south struggles to pay the bills.

Uberuaga, superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park, has a built-in advantage over the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument: a steady and reliable source of funding.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.